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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (13 Sep 67) FOR OT RD 670599

19 September 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters,  
55th Medical Group

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from Lessons Learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

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(Continued on page 2)

670599

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 55TH MEDICAL GROUP  
APO San Francisco 96238

OPERATIONAL REPORT - LESSONS LEARNED  
FOR QUARTERLY PERIOD  
ENDING 30 APRIL 1967  
(RCS CSFOR-65)

ACSFOR - RD File  
670599

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SECTION I  
SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

AVCA MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR - 65)

A. Mission of 55th Medical Group to provide command and control of five hospitals, one medical Battalion, and other specialized units, with responsibility for hospitalization, evacuation, and area medical support of United States Army Vietnam (USARV) and other Free World Military Assistance Forces (FWMF) located in Corps Tactical Zone II, North (CTZ II-N), to include Provinces of Kontum, Binh Dinh, Pleiku, Phu Bon, and so much of Phu Yen Province located north of horizontal grid line BQ - CQ 60, remains unchanged. Four (4) major tactical operations were supported, of which two (2) continue.

B. On 1 February 1967, SFC (E-7) Edward E. Nosbaum was assigned to Group Headquarters as Personnel Sergeant. He served in this capacity until 10 April 1967 at which time he temporarily assumed duties as Group Sergeant Major, succeeding SGM Buck Meacham who returned to CONUS for retirement from the Army after 27 years of active federal service.

C. On 26 April 1967, SGM Edmund L. Bald, reported to Group for duty as Group Sergeant Major.

D. On 8 February 1967, Major Earl W. Lauck, MSC, was assigned to 55th Medical Group as the S-4 Officer, succeeding Lieutenant Colonel Hillard F. Wiatrowski, who departed for a new assignment with 3d Medical Depot in Cam Ranh Bay. 3rd A

E. First Lieutenant Alan R. Giefer, MSC, joined Group Headquarters on 6 March 1967, succeeding First Lieutenant Ernest C. Boeuf, MSC, as Group Personnel Officer. First Lieutenant Boeuf returned to CONUS for release from active duty.

F. Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Cosand has assumed duties as Acting Group Commander replacing Lieutenant Colonel Robert M. Hall, MC, who departed for reassignment to Madigan Army Hospital, Tacoma, Washington.

G. Consolidation of personnel at Group level in both Qui Nhon and Pleiku which was effected 1 December 1966, has now progressed to a point where it is considered to be one of the finest in Viet Nam. On 1 February 1967, Team # 2, of the 222d Personnel Service Company, assumed full responsibility for the area and has continued to raise the quality of personnel administration. As a result of attachment of this trained Personnel Service Company, Group has been able to reduce the number of personnel formerly assigned to this duty and to provide better service to units of this command.

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H. Group Safety Program has continued to receive maximum command emphasis. There were eight (8) reportable accidents within 55th Medical Group during period covered by this report as compared to 16 during previous reporting period.

I. On 31 January 1967, Group strength was 1802. As of the end of this quarters, our strength was 1931. There have been no critical shortages of key personnel which would seriously hamper the ability of any unit of this command to perform its assigned mission. It has been necessary, however, to effect numerous intra-group reassignments, primarily enlisted personnel, in order to assure that no unit would be affected by unexpected loss of key personnel.

J. The Command Information Program continues to be both active and effective. Command Information classes are held on a regularly scheduled basis and well received in units of the command.

K. 174 Hometown News Releases were submitted during reporting period.

L. On 1 February 1967, First Lieutenant William W. Braun, MSC, assumed the primary duties of PIO, OIC of the Group R & R Activities, Civic Actions Officer, Coordinator of Civilian Personnel Affairs, and Passport Control Officer. Under his guidance, 55th Medical Group's monthly newspaper, has resumed publication, providing an additional effective means for distributing items of command-wide information to Group units.

M. Personnel of the 25th Casualty Staging Flight began arriving in Qui Nhon on Tuesday, 7 February 1967. Main body arrived on 13 February 1967. This unit began processing patients on 25 March 1967. Physically located at the 85th Evacuation Hospital, this unit services the 6th ROK Evacuation Hospital, 67th, and 85th Evacuation Hospitals. System has been highly successful. Selected patients from 85th Evacuation Hospital and all patients from 6th ROK Evacuation Hospital are admitted to this facility the day prior to their scheduled out-of-country evacuation. Patients are then transported by USAF and Army buses to Qui Nhon Army Air Field for evacuation to 19th Casualty Staging Unit at Clark Air Base, Philippines. 67th Evacuation Hospital which is physically separated from CSF by approximately three miles of rough roads, the patients are not physically moved. Completed Clinical Record Cover Sheets, plus evacuation request forms are furnished CSF on day prior to evacuation. CSF contacts FEJMO (Far East Joint Medical Regulating Office) to determine destination hospital, prepares necessary travel orders, and manifests patients for movement. On

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day of movement CSF positions prepared litters on appropriate ward for each patient. The patients are moved to the flight line upon arrival of evacuation aircraft. This has been a highly successful bi-service operation. Utilization of USAF CSF has greatly reduced the work load of Registrar Divisions of the evacuation hospitals in Qui Nhon and created a more orderly method of patient evacuation.

N. On 3 February 1967, 14th Medical Detachment (Team MC)(Dispensary) became operational, providing primary medical care to eligible personnel in Qui Nhon. On that date, 152d Medical Detachment (MA) was relieved of the mission assumed by 14th Medical Detachment and moved to Cha Rang to assume the mission formerly performed by Provisional Cha Rang Dispensary.

O. 501st Medical Detachment (Team MA)(Dispensary) was released from attachment to 18th Surgical Hospital and attached to 71st Evacuation Hospital on 21 February 1967. Change was appropriate because 501st Medical Detachment is an area dispensary and is more fittingly assigned under Sub-Area Command Surgeon who is Commanding Officer, 71st Evacuation Hospital.

P. 55th Medical Group continued to provide hospitalization, evacuation, and medical regulating for numerous tactical operations conducted in Corps Tactical Zone II, North, and Corps Tactical Zone I, Republic of Vietnam. The concept of direct coordination with division level medical service by use of Field Medical Regulator, continued. Operations in progress at end of report period include:

1. Operation Francis Marion: Immediately following Operation San Houston on 5 April 1967, this operation involves the 1st and 2d Brigades, 4th Infantry Division, plus attached units. They are conducting an active defense along Se San River and Cambodian border to the South.

2. Operation Pershing: 1st and 2d Brigades, 1st Cavalry Division, are conducting a search and destroy operation in northern Binh Dinh Province. Commencing 15 February 1967, the operation immediately followed Operation Thayer II.

Operations supported during the period which have terminated include:

1. Operation San Houston: 1st and 2d Brigades, 4th Infantry Division, conducted an active defense along Se San River and Cambodian border during period 1 January 1967 to 4 April 1967.

2. Operation Thayer II: 1st Cavalry Division and the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (-) conducted a search and destroy operation in northern BINH DINH Province during period 24 October 1966 - 15 February 1967.



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Q. During this reporting period this group supported one operation in CTZ I which still continues. On 10 April 1967 a command element of 55th Medical Group departed Qui Nhon for Chu Lai to coordinate activities of 44th Medical Brigade units committed in support of Operation Oregon. The medical mission for this operation involves hospitalization and evacuation of US and other FMAP under operational control of III MAF, in vicinity of Chu Lai and Duc Pho, RVN.

SECTION II PART I  
OBSERVATIONS (LESSONS LEARNED)

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AVIA 88-43-6

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report- Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

A. MEDICAL

ITEM: Patient Evacuation.

DISCUSSION: It has been noted during several recent operations in the Pleiku/Kontum area that the HU-1D is not satisfactory for hoist operations. The HU-1D is adversely affected by both altitude and atmospheric conditions. Use of the HU-1D subjects the helicopter crew, the patients and the ground attendants to unwarranted hazards.

OBSERVATION: The OH-47 has sufficient stability to perform hoist operations without unduely endangering the personnel involved and is preferable to the HU-1D for this use.

SECTION II PART II  
RECOMMENDATIONS

AVCA MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

MEDICAL EVACUATION: TOE of each Medical Company, Air ambulance, should be modified to include four (4) CH-47 helicopters. In addition to providing a safer and more reliable means for hoist pickups, capacity of aircraft would facilitate patient evacuations between surgical and evacuation hospitals. Having aircraft this size would greatly improve efficiency of intra area evacuations.

INCLOSURES

AVCA MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

The following units were assigned to 55th Medical Group at end of  
report period :

1st Medical Company (Ambulance)  
2d Surgical Hospital  
14th Medical Detachment (Team MC)(Dispensary)  
18th Surgical Hospital  
48th Medical Detachment (Team KA)(Surgical Detachment)  
51st Medical Company (Ambulance)  
67th Evacuation Hospital  
70th Medical Battalion  
71st Evacuation Hospital  
85th Evacuation Hospital  
138th Medical Detachment (Team KE)(Neurosurgical)  
139th Medical Detachment (Team KB)(Orthopedic)  
142d Medical Detachment (Team MA)(Dispensary)  
152d Medical Detachment (Team MA)(Dispensary)  
240th Medical Detachment (Team KF)(Thoracic)  
438th Medical Detachment (Team RB)(Ambulance Detachment)  
463d Medical Detachment (Team KH)(X-Ray)  
495th Medical Detachment (Team AC)(Company Headquarters)  
501st Medical Detachment (Team MA)(Dispensary)  
542d Medical Company (Clearing)

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6 May 1967

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The following VIP's visited the 55th Medical Group during the period of this report:

2 February 1967

COL Justin S. Zaak  
Dental Surgeon  
USARV

COL Walter Z. Brown  
Dental Surgeon  
44th Medical Brigade

19 February 1967

MG G. E. Eifler  
Commanding General  
1st Logistical Command

20 February 1967

COL J. A. Orbison  
Medical Consultant  
USARPAC Surgeon's Office

COL T. J. Wholan  
Surgical Consultant  
USARPAC Surgeon's Office

LTC A. C. Gomez  
Surgical Consultant  
USARV

22 February 1967

COL Clyde C. Carrier  
Director, Medical Administrative Services  
7th US Air Force

LTC Lawrence A. Sonlo  
Chief, Plans, Programs & Facilities  
7th US Air Force

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6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

MAJ Frank W. Dicker  
Medical Regulating Officer  
44th Medical Brigade

1 March 1967

LTC Thomas A. Hanson  
Surgeon  
IFFV

4 March 1967

CPT James Schlack  
Executive Officer  
Company B, 15th Med Bn

14 March 1967

COL Larry W. Coker  
Executive Officer  
44th Medical Brigade

22 March 1967

LTC Erwin Zinov  
S-4 Officer  
44th Medical Brigade

25 March 1967

MAJ Harrison  
Unit Utilization Team  
USARV

MAJ Pearson  
Unit Utilization Team  
USARV

LTC Jennie L. Caylor  
Chief Nurse  
USARV

LTC Rose Straley  
Chief Nurse  
44th Medical Brigade

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6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

30 March 1967

LTC Robert Miller  
Deputy Commander  
44th Medical Brigade

LTC Bernard F. Kerwin  
Incoming S-4 Officer  
44th Medical Brigade

CPT Joseph D. O'Brien  
Assistant S-1 Officer  
44th Medical Brigade

COL Mary E. Lipscomb  
Chief, AMESC Branch  
Department of the Army

LTC Patricia Accountius  
Chief, Food Service  
44th Medical Brigade

MAJ Westhoven  
Chief, Physical Therapy  
3d Field Hospital

2 April 1967

EG James A. Wier  
Surgeon  
USARV

4 April 1967

EG Shelton E. Lollis  
Deputy Commanding General  
1st Logistical Command

5 April 1967

COL Herbert R. Faust  
Veterinary Staff Officer  
44th Medical Brigade

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6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCC CSFOR-65)

COL Richard E. Morgan  
In-Country Veterinary Staff Officer  
44th Medical Brigade

LTC Milard Tierce  
Area Veterinary Officer  
Da Nang

6 April 1967

COL Kwang  
Surgeon  
Republic of Korea Army

COL Kim, Jong Ho  
Commanding Officer  
6th ROKA Evacuation Hospital

COL Kim, Nyung Chul  
Surgeon  
ROKA Tiger Division

LTC Darwin O. Patrick  
USARV Escort Officer

CPT Kim (Nurse)  
Surgeons Office  
Republic of Korea Army

LT Perry (USN)  
Advisor  
Free World Medical Command

7 April 1967

EG James A. Wier  
Surgeon  
USARV

COL Willard E. Thompson  
Executive Officer, Surgeons Office  
USARV

LTC A. C. Gones  
Surgical Consultant  
USARV



AVCA MB-GB-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1967 (HCS CSFOR-65)

6 May 1967

8 April 1967

LTC Rose Straley  
Chief Nurse  
44th Medical Brigade

11 April 1967

LTC Robert Miller  
Deputy Commander  
44th Medical Brigade

CPT Joseph D. O'Brien  
Assistant S-1 Officer  
44th Medical Brigade

13 April 1967

LTC David Duttwiler  
Preventive Medicine Section  
USARV

MAJ William O. Lamb  
Preventive Medicine Section  
USARV

18 April 1967

COL Hinten J. Baker  
In-coming Commanding Officer  
9th Medical Laboratory

LTC Pierre A. Fink  
Commanding Officer  
9th Medical Laboratory

27 April 1967 (Chu Lai & Duc Pho facilities)

BG James A. Wier  
Surgeon  
USARV

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6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

COL Ray Miller  
Commanding Officer  
44th Medical Brigade

LTC A. C. Gomez  
Surgical Consultant  
USARV

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AVCA-MB-PO (9 May 1967) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operation Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

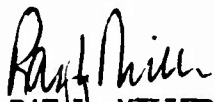
HEADQUARTERS, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307, 26 May 1967

TO: Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, ATTN: AVCA-GO-O  
APO 96307

1. The contents of basic document has been reviewed.
2. This report is forwarded with comments pertaining to Section II, Part II, as follows: Medical Evacuation: Nonconcur. A request for CH-47 helicopters to augment the AMEDS Aeromedical Evacuation capability was submitted to this headquarters by the 498th Air Ambulance Company on 18 November 1966. This request was forwarded to USARV with the recommendation that it be approved. After being staffed at USARV, the request was forwarded to MACV where it was disapproved. Disapproval was based on the shortage of CH-47 helicopters within the US Army, and the fact that responsibility for evacuating patients between hospitals has been assumed by the 7th USAF.

Tel: Lynx 382

1 Incl  
as

  
RAY J. MILLER  
Colonel, MC  
Commanding

AVCA GO-O (15 May 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967  
(RCS CSFOR 65)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, APO 96307 **21 JUN 1967**

TO: Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN:  
AVHGC-DH, APO 96307

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 55th Medical Group for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1967 is forwarded.
2. The 55th Medical Group engaged in combat service support operations for 89 days during the reporting period.
3. Concur with basic report as modified by 1st Indorsement. The report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Timothy S O'Hara*  
**TIMOTHY S. O'HARA**  
1LT, INF  
Acting Asst AG

TEL: Lynx 430/782

1 Incl  
nc

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AVHGC-DST (15 May 67) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 21 JUL 67

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT  
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 30 April 1967 from Headquarters, 55th Medical Group as indorsed.

2. Reference item concerning patient evacuation, pages 7 and 8 and paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement: Concur. The problem encountered in UH-1D hoist operations in the central highlands area of Vietnam is well known to this headquarters. For this reason, UH-1D helicopters assigned to the 2d Platoon, 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) at Pleiku have been replaced with the UH-1H helicopter which has a more powerful engine and should provide the capability of performing hoist evacuations. The request for CH-47 helicopters was previously staffed at this headquarters as indicated in paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl  
nc

*C. E. St. Martin*  
C. E. ST. MARTIN  
Capt. AGC  
Asst AG

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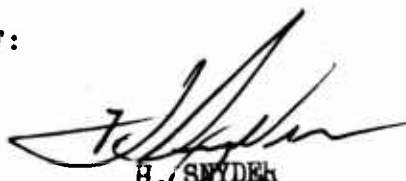
GPOP-DT (15 May 67) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967  
from HQ, 55th Med Gp (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 25 AUG 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army,  
Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs in the report  
as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

  
H. SNYDER  
CPT, AGO  
Asst AG

1 Incl  
nc